

United States embassies, legations, consular offices, and other facilities abroad, including all military facilities and naval vessels and stations.

**In Witness Whereof**, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

**George W. Bush**

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:04 a.m., February 4, 2003]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on February 5. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

**Memorandum on Declaration Under the Stafford Act for Louisiana: Space Shuttle Columbia**

*February 1, 2003*

*Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency*

*Subject: Declaration Under the Stafford Act for Louisiana: Space Shuttle Columbia*

I have determined that the emergency conditions in certain areas of the State of Louisiana in connection with the events relating to the loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on February 1, 2003, are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121–5206 (the “Stafford Act”). The basis for my decision to make this declaration pursuant to section 501(b) of the Stafford Act includes the fact that the space shuttle and the space program are Federal property and Federal programs. I, therefore, declare that such an emergency exists in the State of Louisiana.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to coordinate and direct other Federal agencies and fund activities not authorized under other Federal statutes and allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find

necessary for Federal emergency assistance and administrative expenses.

Pursuant to this emergency declaration, you are authorized to provide emergency assistance as you deem appropriate under title V of the Stafford Act at 100 percent Federal funding.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

**George W. Bush**

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

**Memorandum on Declaration Under the Stafford Act for Texas: Space Shuttle Columbia**

*February 1, 2003*

*Memorandum for the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency*

*Subject: Declaration Under the Stafford Act for Texas: Space Shuttle Columbia*

I have determined that the emergency conditions in certain areas of the State of Texas in connection with the events relating to the loss of the Space Shuttle *Columbia* on February 1, 2003, are of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant an emergency declaration under section 501(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 5121–5206 (the “Stafford Act”). The basis for my decision to make this declaration pursuant to section 501(b) of the Stafford Act includes the fact that the space shuttle and the space program are Federal property and Federal programs. I, therefore, declare that such an emergency exists in the State of Texas.

In order to provide Federal assistance, you are hereby authorized to coordinate and direct other Federal agencies and fund activities not authorized under other Federal statutes and allocate from funds available for these purposes, such amounts as you find necessary for Federal emergency assistance and administrative expenses.

Pursuant to this emergency declaration, you are authorized to provide emergency assistance as you deem appropriate under title

V of the Stafford Act at 100 percent Federal funding.

Further, you are authorized to make changes to this declaration to the extent allowable under the Stafford Act.

### George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this memorandum.

### Remarks on Project BioShield in Bethesda, Maryland

February 3, 2003

Thanks for that warm welcome. It's a delight to be here at the National Institutes of Health, a center of excellence, a center of the brilliance of the American people. It is a place where so many good people do work every day to help save lives, and we're thankful for that. America is really proud of what you do here. NIH is a great credit to America.

Two days ago, America was yet reminded again of the sacrifices made in the name of scientific discovery. The seven brave men and women from the *Columbia* will be remembered for their achievements, their heroism, and their sense of wonder. Our prayers are with their families and their loved ones.

Their 16-day mission held the promise of answering scientific problems that elude us here on Earth. *Columbia* carried in its payload\* classroom experiments from some of our students in America. I hope these children, our future scientists, will continue to ask questions, continue to explore, continue to discover.

And while we grieve the loss of these astronauts, the cause of which they died will continue; America's journey into space will go on. The spirit of modern science embodied in our space program can be found here at NIH, where each day you make enormous progress against disease and suffering—these achievements that come about through the great ingenuity and determination and the serious moral purpose of America's scientific community.

\* White House correction.

Now our scientists have been called to meet a different kind of challenge, man's efforts to use diseases as weapons of war and terror. This threat has placed research scientists at the center of our mission to defend the American people. It has put NIH squarely in the midst of our war to defend America and to defeat international terrorism. With focus and determination and necessary resources, this Government will act before dangers are upon us.

I want to thank Tommy Thompson for his leadership at the Department of Health and Human Services. And I want to thank my friend Tom Ridge for taking on the Department of Homeland Security, the new agency designed to coordinate Federal assets over State and local assets in order to protect—better protect America.

I'm honored that Members of the United States Congress have joined us. Senator Ted Kennedy from Massachusetts is with us—thank you, Senator Kennedy—and Chris Cox of California, Jim Turner of Texas, Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.

I want to thank Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who is the Director of the Institute—the National Institutes of Health, for his fine, fine leadership of this really important institution. He really is doing a fine job. You know, when I picked him, I thought he would do okay. [Laughter] He's far exceeded my expectations. He's really, really a good man who is honoring our country with his leadership.

Tony Fauci, of course, I've known him for a long time. He is a distinguished Director of the National Institute of Allergies and Infectious Diseases, one of the generals in the war against HIV/AIDS, for which we are really grateful, Tony, for your dedication. I want to thank—Mark McClellan is here with us, the Director of the Food and Drug Administration. I appreciate your leadership, Mark, on this incredibly important agency.

Gary Nabel is with us. He is the Director of the Vaccine Research Center, who just took us on a really interesting tour. I asked him if this is the best in the world, and he said, "You bet. Not only do we have the best equipment in the world, Mr. President, we've got the best people in the world working there." And I want to thank you for your leadership, Gary.